(ग) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि सोनागीर एक प्रसिद्ध जैन तीर्थस्थल है, जहां सारे भारत से जैन तीर्थ यात्री आते हैं?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुरेश कलमाडी) : (क) और (ख) यात्रियों की कमी के कारण 1.12.95 से 1457/1458 दादर-अमृतसर एक्सप्रेस गाड़ी का ठहराव हटा लिया गया है।

(ग) जी हां, मेलों के दौरान, अतिरिक्त मांग की पूर्ति के लिए, रेलें अतिरिक्त एक्सप्रेस गाड़ियों के अस्थाई ठहराव की व्यवस्था करती हैं?

Train Accidents

2554. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of accidents in the Railways in the last three years and the loss of lives and properties, year-wise;

(b) whether there is a sudden increase in such accidents; if so, reasons thereof; and

(c) whether Government are aware of a seminar on Railways Safety held on June 30, 1995 in Dhanbad, organised by the Trade Unions holding use of contractors in track maintenance and lack of
equipments responsible for accidents; if so, the details and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) Information is as under:—

	1992-93	1993-94	1994-95
Number of consequential train accidents	524	520	501
Number of persons killed	282	379	305
Cost of damage to Railway prop* erty (Rs. in crores)	66.1	57.09	52.34

(b) No, Sir. In fact, the number of accidents has come down.

(c) A seminar was organised by an un recognised union on June 30th, 1995 in Dhanbad Division in which safety matters were discussed in general.

Indian Railways accord the highest priority to the safety in train operations and the suggestions made by various forums/Trade Unions and Railway employees are always considered for improving safety in train operation.

Vacation of Illegal Encroachment by Shop- keepers

2555. DR. RANBIR SINGH: Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is nexus between the shopkeepers in the markets of the Directorate of Estate and the CPWD/MCD/ Police, consequent to which the verandahs meant for public have been encroached upon as also the space in front thereof and in other open spaces around the markets;

(b) if so, the reasons for Government not taking congnizance thereof to get such illegal encroachments vacated; and

(c) the time by which these encroachments will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPTT. OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENTS (SHRI R.K. DHAWAN): (a) No such nexus has come to the notice of Government.

(b) and (c) As and when any case of encroachment is reported to the Directorate of Estates by CPWD, action is taken to cancel the allotment, as per the exist-ivjj instructions in case the said encroach-nient is not removed within the notice period. It is not possible to give any specific time for removal of encroachments as it is a continuous process.